

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BUCHAREST 5373

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, RO

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: STATE 247951

1. I APPRECIATE DETAILED AND TIMELY REFTEL. CONTENTS WERE EXPLAINED TO URSU YESTERDAY AT MEETING HE CALLED TO REVIEW TOPICS COVERED DURING DR. STEVER'S VISIT, AND FOR GENERAL WRAP-UP BEFORE MY DEPARTURE TO US THIS EVENING. SIGNIFICANT POINTS COVERED ARE KELLOWPKCSN

2. HURSU RECONFIRMED OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT FIRST PRIORITY REMAINS ACQUISITION OF TWO CANDU REACTORS IN NEAR FUTURE. GOR PLANS DEFINITELY INCLUDE EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF MANUFACTURE AND EXPORT CAPABILITY OF RELATED TECHNOLOGY ALSO, BUT THESE ISSUES ARE NOT SO IMMEDIATE AND PRESSING.

3. GOR IS PREPARED TO OMIT HTGR AND HIGH-CAPACITY COMPUTERS FROM EQUIPMENT LIST AS UNRELATED TO CANDU PACKAGE. HOWEVER, HTGR IS NOW AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE OF GREAT INTEREST AS ITEM OF POSSIBLE JOINT RESEARCH. IF GOR CANNOT ATTRACT US COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD THEY RELUCTANTLY WILL SEEK OTHER PARTNERS. URSU WAS PUZZLED BY OBJECTION TO COMPUTERS, BY THE WAY, AS AM I, ASSUMING HE WAS SPEAKING ACCURATELY THAT ROMANIA ALREADY HAS PURCHASED IBM/370

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FROM US. ANYHOW IT MAY BE DROPPED FROM CONSIDERATION IN

THE CONTEXT.

4. WHEN TOLD THAT NUCLEAR ISSUES HAD BEEN STRICKEN FROM JOINT COMMISSION AGENDA, URSU EXPRESSED SURPRISE AS PATAN HAD NOT MENTIONED THIS IN THEIR MOST RECENT CONVERSATION THE DAY BEFORE. HE SAID NUCLEAR SPECIALISTS HAD BEEN OSCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TALKS, SPECIFICALLY SCNE VICE PRESIDENT EMILIAN RODEAN. IN GENERAL I URGED A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO RESOLVING NUCLEAR QUESTIONS WITH U.S. DECISION-MAKING AGENCIES, AND SUGGESTED RODEAN'S PRESENCE IN U.S. WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN QUALIFIED EXPERTS, WHETHER OR NOT NUCLEAR BILATERAL WERE DISCUSSED IN JOINT COMMISSION. URSU AGREED.

5. DESPITE EXTENSIVE AND GENERALLY ENCOURAGING REPLY FROM DEPARTMENT, URSU PRESSED HARD ON THE MAJOR QUESTION OF WHETHER A U.S. "DETERMINATION" OR "DECISION" WAS REQUIRED OR NOT TO GAIN THE GENERAL ASSURANCES IN PRINCIPLE WHICH GOR SEEKS RELATING TO SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDE CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING ITEMS PURCHASABLE FROM CANADIAN-BASED U.S. SUBSIDIARIES. REFTTEL PARA 2C POINTS OUT WITH REGARD TO NPT THAT WE BELIEVE APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER OR RETRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY SHOULD REST WITH THE SUPPLYING PARTY. IT SEEMS TO ME A "DECISION TO REACH A DECISION" CAN AT LEAST BE MADE BY THE TIME OF RODEAN'S VISIT EARLY NOVEMBER, THEREBY LEAVING THE ROMANIANS EXPLICITLY AP- PRISED OF U.S. REQUIREMENTS LEADING TO A FINAL DECISION.

6. URSU CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSION OF STRONG GOR PREFERENCE FOR COOPERATION WITH U.S. IN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH BUT ADDED THAT CXTENSE PRESSURE TO RESOLVE AHE CANDU QUESTION SOON LEFT THDCXIN POSITION OF BEING UNABLE TO WAIT MUCH LONGER FOR U.S. ACTION.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE APPOINTMENTS BEING MADE FOR ME TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS LATE THIS WEEK.
BARNES

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